

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, ON APPEALING TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN
TO WITHDRAW AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC
NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The nomination of Governor Dewey and Governor Warren by the Republican Party makes it imperative that the Democratic Party have the strongest ticket possible.

Mr. Truman at one time said he did not want the Vice-Presidency and subsequently said that he did not want to be President.

Now, in the interest of Democratic victory next November, I appeal to Mr. Truman to withdraw and cooperate in nominating a ticket which will enable the Democratic Party to win.

In making this appeal, I believe I am voicing the feeling of the vast majority of Democrats in every section.

The liberal minded people of America, those who believe in the progressive social and economic development of our country, do not want a Republican administration.

The prominence of that old puppet of privilege, Joe Grundy, in engineering the break in the Pennsylvania delegation to the Republican convention which started the steamroller to moving is enough warning to the people as to what they may expect if the Republicans win. People became sick and tired of Grundyism in their government in Washington, and that was one of the reasons the Republican Party was voted out of power in 1932.

What we may as well realize, if the Democratic Party is to win the election, is that we have got to have a strong ticket and a real Jeffersonian Democratic platform.

We in the South have held the party together when other sections deserted it and we have ever been loyal to the party of Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. We have every right to expect recognition in the naming of the Presidential candidate, and there are many prominent Southerners who would make great Presidents.

The responsibilities now confronting the Democratic Party, however, transcend sectional lines.

We must defeat a Republican Party which numbers among its inner circle so many of the same old powerful and influential reactionaries, who hope to ride back into the same old control of our domestic affairs by means of the Republican Philadelphia ticket.

We must keep the nation's foreign affairs out of the hands of a Republican Party which is still isolationist at the core, which still contains so many of its old advocates of appeasement, and which is filled with internal dissension and disagreement on our international policies.

To this end, in my opinion, the Democrats of the South would willingly relinquish any personal claims which they have on the Democratic ticket and rally behind any great leader from some other section of the country for the Democratic Presidential nomination. But we do not intend to bury our heads in the sand and blind ourselves to facts. We know, as Democrats of all sections know, that we cannot win with Truman. If President Truman has the interest of the Party at heart, he will retire and permit the Democrats in Philadelphia to consider a ticket that can lead the Party to victory.

If Mr. Truman uses the power of the office of President to force his nomination by the Democratic Party, there will be no course left open to us in the South except to elect independent electors in the November general election.

I am sure that if the Democrats of the Nation can express themselves freely at the forthcoming convention they will not nominate Mr. Truman. Mr. Truman should not insist on being a road block to the nomination of the ticket which can defeat Dewey in the November election.

The world crisis demands that the best qualified American be elected to serve this nation during the next four years.

Because of the critical period which now confronts us in world affairs, the Governors of the various states are now engaged in setting up draft boards which will place millions of young Americans into military service. A strong and humane leadership in the White House may prevent these Americans from having to make the sacrifice their brothers so recently had to make. Certainly we can not tolerate a weak and vacillating leadership in these times.

It is our duty as Democrats to nominate a great American under whose leadership the whole nation may rally in this critical period. No American could deny such a call to service.

The Democratic party can not and will not fail the nation in an hour of its greatest need. To do so would be a calamity not only for our own country but would blast the hopes of peoples all over the world who look to these shores for that strong and inspiring leadership which will seal the victory of the last war with a lasting peace.